

# Shepherd Lodge Newsletter

June 2017



**Superhero Fun Run** - Shepherd Lodge Nursery took part in the cash for kids Rock FM Superhero Fun Run on Thursday 11th May 2017. We raised £200.00 which is a fantastic amount.



**Club Day** - Our theme for Club Day this year is 'The Lodges go on Safari'. We will be taking part in Lytham Club Day this year along with Clifton Lodge Nursery on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017. In preparation for this event we will be exploring 'The Safari' theme through thematic planning throughout the nursery. Children are welcome to dress up as Safari animals



This costume is £13.99 on Ebay -

<http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Leopard-Kids-Fancy-Dress-Safari-Zoo-Animal-Onesie-Girls-Boys-Childrens-Costume-/112336912537?var=&hash=item1a27cd4099:m:mpGgM4TMqD5femMK7K1IVIQ>

**Weapon Play** - Written by Julie Page - As some of you may be aware I have just completed my BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Studies and chose the subject area of weapon play for my dissertation. Months of research has led to the identification that in today's society this kind of play within an early years setting can result in numerous benefits for children's learning and development throughout all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS 2017), primarily and perhaps more importantly in the area of personal, social and emotional development. Children's interests are specifically outlined of valuable importance in the EYFS and if early year's educators are not responsive to these interests then it can lead to low levels of self confidence and self esteem. 'A person's self confidence and self esteem are critical factors for future learning, achievement and well being and must be nurtured by those around them (Maslow 1943; DfE 2017). Alongside this weapon play can assist with social development, limitless imaginative and creative development through sociodramatic play where children can build on their language skills, explore and express new ideas, develop and create stories through cooperation during interactions, which in turn can aid in developing empathy. Physical development is another area in which this kind of play can benefit children's learning and development. Using outside space freely allows for the development of gross motor skills and coordination, evaluating risk, confronting safe danger and recognising an unmediated connection between cause and effect. The primary research I conducted within the setting was focused around the views of both parents and practitioners on the topic. The results found varying opinions regarding issues such as how beneficial weapon play can be, influences and whether a policy should be implemented. The research suggested that the majority of people were for this type of play rather than against it. For this reason, the setting has decided to implement a policy that will also incorporate superhero and rough and tumble play. The policy that will be implemented will not be in place as a means to promoting any of these types of play, but rather to support early years educators in ensuring a comprehensive understanding is adhered to if a child shows an interest in these types of play, alongside appropriate supervision

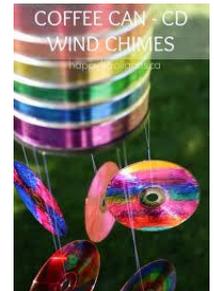


acknowledging the play is developmentally pertinent and does not get out of hand. Boundaries for both children and staff will also be incorporated into the policy. Parents are invited to put forward any policy ideas in writing to Katie Payne.

**Summer Fair - Festival theme-** We will be holding this years Summer Fair Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm at **Clifton Lodge**. Join us for an afternoon of fun and laughter - bring along your picnic blanket, there will be a barbeque, face painting and much more. Not forgetting the graduation ceremony for the Pre-School leavers. We will be holding the tombola and raffle too and have started collecting prizes. If you have anything you would like to donate please bring it in over the next few weeks and give it to your room co-ordinators or Katie in the office.



**Wind chime competition** - Now that Summer is upon us we are inviting parents to create their own wind chime to hang in the sand hut in the garden. We encourage you to be as creative as possible and use as many resources as you can. All entries will receive a prize and certificate. Please can all entries for the competition be in no later than Monday 4th July.



**Collections** - We are currently collecting shells.



### Dates for your diary

24 <sup>th</sup> June	Lytham Club Day
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Shepherd Lodge & Clifton Lodge Summer Fair
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Parents evening.
28 <sup>th</sup> August	Bank holiday.
16 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents evening.
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Shepherd Lodge and Clifton Lodge's Christmas fair.
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Nursery closes at 18:00 for the Christmas period.
2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Nursery reopens at 08:00.